

BEVERLY EAVES PERDUE
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Auto Belts Manufacturer to Add 58 Jobs in Ashe County
State Grant Helps the Gates Corporation to Expand in Jefferson

RALEIGH – Gov. Bev Perdue today announced that the Gates Corporation, one of the world’s largest manufacturers of automobile belts and hoses, will expand their facility in Ashe County. The company plans to create 58 jobs and invest \$4.6 million during the next three years in Jefferson. The project was made possible in part by a \$100,000 grant from the One North Carolina Fund.

“I want to congratulate Gates Corporation on their expansion,” Gov. Perdue said. “Their growth is terrific news for the workers in Ashe County and emphasizes that the steps we have taken to build a top rated business climate in North Carolina are paying off in jobs and an increasing share of the automotive parts industry.”

Founded in 1911, the Gates Corporation has grown into one of the world’s largest manufacturers of industrial and automotive belts and hoses. Today, Gates, a subsidiary of Tomkins LTD, is the only non-tire producing rubber company with sales and manufacturing operations in all the world’s major markets, including North America, Europe, Asia, Australia and South America. The Ashe County facility, which currently employs 265, manufactures automotive and industrial belts. This project will expand the current facility by adding two robotic cell production lines for synchronous belts used to drive electric power steering generation mechanisms.

Salaries will vary by job function, but the average annual wage for the new jobs will be \$24,723 not including benefits. The Ashe County average annual wage is \$27,508.

“Gates is very appreciative to the North Carolina Commerce Department, Ashe County Commission and the Town of Jefferson for their support in this initiative. We look forward to the opportunity to add more jobs to the region,” said Tony D’alessandro, Plant Manager for the Ashe County facility. “This would not have been possible without the One NC grant, which was the determining factor in the selection of Ashe County over other Gates sites.”